

Application No. 09/320,472

I. Description of Claim Amendments

Independent claim 28 has been amended to recite that the pupil defining unit comprises a variable aperture stop (i.e., the last clause was added to claim 28). Independent claim 97 has been amended to recite that the projection optical system is disposed in an optical path between the mask and a substrate, and includes a pupil defining unit as claimed therein. Independent claim 113 has been amended to add the relationship regarding the numerical apertures at the end of that claim. The above amendments to claims 28 and 97 are supported by the original patent at, e.g., col. 4, lines 43-46 and col. 5, lines 15-24. The above amendment to claim 113 is supported by the original patent at, e.g., col. 3, line 3 and col. 4, line 56 - col. 5, line 8. Claims 104, 105, 122-124, 127 and 128 have been amended to change the claims from which they depend.

The subject matter of new claims 133, 136-138 and 145 is supported in the original patent at, e.g., col. 2, line 17 and col. 4, lines 19-25. The subject matter of new claims 134, 135, 139, 141 and 142 is supported in the original patent at, e.g., col. 3, line 3 and col. 4, line 56 - col. 5, line 8. The subject matter of new claim 140 is supported in the original patent at, e.g., col. 7, line 56 - col. 8, line 3. The subject matter of new claims 143 and 144 is supported in the original patent at, e.g., col. 4, lines 43-46 and col. 5, lines 15-24.

II. Supplemental Reissue Declarations

A Supplemental Reissue Declaration, referenced in the September 4 Amendment is filed herewith. A Second Supplemental reissue Declaration will be filed shortly that addresses the amendments made to the claims in this Amendment.

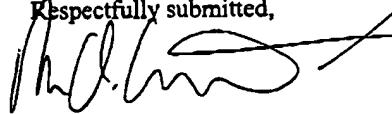
III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons stated in the September 4 Amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Supplemental Reissue Declaration

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